the centinel

CENTRAL STATES NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Volume 24, Number 2
Fall-Winter, 1976-77

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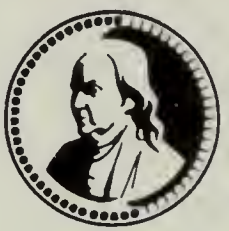

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the centinel

Official Publication/Central States Numismatic Society

VOL. 24, No. 2 Fall-Winter, 1976-77

Milwaukee Sets the Stage For '77 CSNS Convention

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, host to a number of highly successful CSNS conventions in past years, is rapidly making ready to "pull out all of the stops" as it prepares to host the 38th anniversary convention, May 13-15, 1977. This will be the fifth time that CSNS has met in Milwaukee, the most recent in 1972 when all previous attendance records were shattered.

Heading the convention will be perennial show organizer, A. P. "Del" Bertschy.

Those of you who attended the 1972 convention are familiar with the magnificent convention facilities of the Red Carpet-Expo Center, site of the '77 gathering.

Those of you who attend the 1972 for the first time will find a ground level exposition hall with 30,000 square feet of unobstructed and brightly lighted floor space, year round air conditioning, free parking for over 1,000 cars with easy drive-in access and covered canopy for loading and unloading. Complemented with fine dining facilities and an excellent hospitality room, the Red Carpet Inn is a truly unusual convention center. In fact, it has become so popular with numismatic groups in recent years that several numismatic conventions are held there each year.

Exhibitors!

Complete exhibiting information — rules and application form — will be in your next issue of The Centinel. Watch for it!

The convention will again be preceded by PNG (Professional Numismatists Guild) Day, Thursday, May 12, which will be open to the public. And plans are under way for several interesting and educational exhibits, in addition to CSNS members' entries in the exhibit competition.

(See **Convention,** page 31)

About The Cover

President Jimmy Carter's official inaugural medal, created by sculptor Julian H. Harris and struck by The Franklin Mint, has been well received by inaugural medal fans, including CSNS Governor Jack D. Huggins. Perhaps you, too, share his feelings . . . . . See page 24.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMENTARY

We, your Officers and Governors, held our interim board meeting in Bloomington, Minn. on October 9-10 in conjunction with the Minnesota Organization of Numismatists (MOON) annual show.

Our sincere thanks to MOON President O. B. Dahl and his officers and board for the fine hospitality which they extended, and to our own Governor, Miss Orlane D. Kittle, chairlady in setting up this meeting, for the accommodations which she obtained for us, and for her help in setting up a hospitality room where we met old friends and members and signed up new ones.

We held two business sessions during our stay in Minnesota.

I have appointed Mr. Don Mark of Adel, Iowa, to fill the vacancy on our board created by the untimely death of Gov. Lowell L. Owen. This appointment has been approved by the board. Mr. Mark is an active numismatist and is an officer of the Iowa Numismatic Association.

Del Bertschy, general chairman of the 1977 convention to be held in Milwaukee, announced that all plans for the convention are being finalized, and that final bourse table applications have been processed. Bertschy has been chairman of previous CSNS conventions, and you can be assured that he and his committee will strive to make this the best convention that we have had yet.

Our Editor of The Centinel has advised us that he has used his backlog of articles for our publication and invites writers to submit any articles on numismatics, which may be of general interest to our membership, for his consideration. He promises to publish all material that merits printing.

Harold H. Berk

Again I would like to point out that Central States Numismatic Society is in the process of receiving proposals for the convention auctions to be held in 1978, 1979 and 1980. Any reputable numismatic firm, experienced in conducting public auctions may present a written proposal specifying the fee it is willing to pay to the Society for the privilege of conducting the auction. Please send these proposals to my attention.

(See **Commentary,** page 3)

A MESSAGE FROM THE

SECRETARY

Once again, it is time to remind our members that your dues may be past due! Our Society year runs from convention to convention; that is, from May 1 to April 30. I will be sending notices. So if you are one of those persons who dislikes getting billed through the mail, do us both a favor and send your dues NOW. I would like to remind you that the best way to take care of this detail permanently is to join the Life Membership group. I'll be glad to furnish details at your request.

Marjorie M. Owen

At the risk repeating myself, I must ask the members to please, please, please let me know your current addresses. The number of Centinels that have been returned from the Summer mailing is staggering. And, of course, each one has postage due. This is costing your Society money that could be used in much better ways to further the hobby. The situation is really bad, and I know of no way to correct it without your help. It is your privilege as a member in good standing to receive The Centinel; you need it to keep up with the news of our organization. I will keep a list of all Centinels returned to me, and when I have two successive copies, I will cross that name from my mailing list. If you do not receive a copy, write me your correct address and I will get you back on the list.

We had a most productive Board meeting in Minneapolis, in conjunction with the Minnesota Organization of Numismatists (MOON) annual convention. The interim meeting of the Board is a necessity; business items sometimes can't wait from one convention until the next. A big "thank you" to our Minnesota friends. They really had the welcome mat out for us!

— HAROLD H. BERK
President

Commentary —

(From page 2)

Effective with the 1977 convention, an annual "Lowell Owen Award" will be presented for the best exhibit in the Junior Division of exhibit competition.

The board also approved a new CSNS membership application form. State or local organizations, as well as individuals, may obtain these by writing to our Secretary-Treasurer.

I'm finding this secretarial job a most fascinating way to spend time! I really do enjoy it and I welcome suggestions or criticisms from the members.

One thing I wish to repeat . . . to persons applying for membership: your name **must** be published in The Centinel before issuance of a membership card. We had waived this procedure following the Chicago convention, but were reminded by our very able Legal Counsel, Mr. George Hatie, that this is stipulated in the By-Laws and must be followed. I have tried to write each applicant a short note to that effect.

There will be some motions brought up at the convention next Spring in Milwaukee, some dealing with proposed changes in our By-Laws. It would be a wise idea for anyone interested in our rules and regulations to make plans now to attend. I hope to have hotel reservation cards for that convention in each Spring issue of The Centinel.

— MARJORIE M. OWEN
Secretary

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The persons named below have applied for membership in the Society. Each applicant will become a member in 30 days, unless a written objection to his or her application is received by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to that date.

New Members Since The Summer, 1976, Issue of THE CENTINEL

2755 Larry Spanbauer ..... Oshkosh, Wisconsin
2756 Arnold Meyers ..... Niles, Ohio
2757-J Lee S. Minshull ..... Ann Arbor, Michigan
2758 Fern David ..... Florissant, Missouri
2759 Frank J. Balcerzak ..... Buffalo, New York
2760-J Greg Buck ..... Penfield, Illinois
2761 Dorothy H. Jackson ..... Logansport, Indiana
2762-J Kenneth J. Andree ..... Freeport, Illinois
2763-J Paul Hopkins ..... Terre Haute, Indiana
2764 Burtwin L. Day ..... Norway, Iowa
2765-J Layne Samuelson ..... Jewell, Iowa
2766 Wayne Samuelson ..... Jewell, Iowa
2767-J Brooke Samuelson ..... Jewell, Iowa
2768 John C. Daugherty ..... Argyle, Iowa
2769 Wilbur H. Balmos ..... Muscatine, Iowa
2770 Kenneth Hochreiter ..... Bloomington, Indiana
2771 Godfrey J. Gesmacher ..... Cedar Rapids, Iowa
2772 Walter L. McKee ..... Cedar Rapids, Iowa
2773 Burl Armstrong ..... Donnellson, Iowa
2774 Marcia Armstrong ..... Donnellson, Iowa
2775 Martin H. Dahl ..... Robbinsdale, Minnesota
2776 Kenneth A. Eikeland ..... Saint Paul, Minnesota
2777 Osborne B. Dahl ..... Minneapolis, Minnesota
2778 D. Scott Secor ..... Anoka, Minnesota
2779 Keith E. Miller ..... Fridley, Minnesota

2780 T. E. Bader ..... Saint Paul, Minnesota
2781 Mark A. Ferguson ..... Oshkosh, Wisconsin
2782 Maurice Melamed ..... Saint Paul, Minnesota
2783 Stan Sunde ..... Duluth, Minnesota
2784 Scott P. Johnson ..... Minneapolis, Minnesota

LIFE MEMBERSHIP — Converted from Regular Membership

LM 170 Joseph P. Irmen ..... Wood Dale, Illinois
LM 171 Robert E. Westfall ..... Marietta, Ohio
LM 172 Jonathan K. Kern ..... Lexington, Kentucky

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FUTURE CSNS CONVENTIONS

May 13-15, 1977 ..... Red Carpet-Expo Center ..... Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Chairman: A. P. "Del" Bertschy, 714 E. Glendale Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211.

May 12-14, 1978 ..... Chase-Park Plaza Hotel ..... St. Louis, Missouri

April 25-29, 1979 ..... Dearborn Michigan

Dates to be announced, 1980 ..... Lincoln, Nebraska
Chairman: Allen L. Schrock, P.O. Box 1212, D.T.S., Omaha, Nebraska 68101.

Tentatively awarded, 1981 ..... Cedar Rapids, Iowa

NOTE TO CLUB OFFICIALS: Interested in hosting a future CSNS convention? It's not too early to begin thinking of the future! Submit your letter of invitation to the CSNS Secretary-Treasurer at your earliest convenience. Your request will receive the prompt attention of the Officers and Board of Governors.

— NOTICE —

Central States Numismatic Society is desirous of receiving proposals for the convention auctions to be held in 1978, 1979, and 1980. Any interested numismatic firm experienced in conducting public auctions should promptly present a written proposal specifying the amount it is willing to pay to the Society for the privilege of conducting the auction. Proposals should be mailed to: Harold H. Berk, CSNS President, 2671 Youngstown Road, S. E., Warren, Ohio 44484.

SPOTLIGHT

Complaint Service Major ANA Benefit

An elephant never forgets, they say. Neither, it seems, does the complaints department of the American Numismatic Association (ANA).

ANA's Executive Vice President Edward Rochette reports that in March of 1971 one ANA member filed a complaint against an individual, the dollar amount involved being several hundred dollars. Although at that time unsuccessful in its attempt to get the claim settled, ANA kept the case open. Recently, five and a half years later, ANA finally was able to effect a settlement, much to the pleasant surprise of the complainant.

Incidentally, Rochette reports, settlement of complaints frequently is made more difficult because of the extraordinary length of time between a complainant's receipt of a coin and his return of that coin to the coin's sender. If a complaint alleges a counterfeit or altered coin, such complaint would have been avoided if the buyer had instructed the seller to send the coin direct to ANACS, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 for certification, before sending the coin to the buyer.

If the complainant alleges whizzing or gross overgrading, the buyer should have put the coin back into the mail to the sender within a day or two of his receiving the coin. In fact, Rochette says, when the new textbook on ANA's grading standards becomes available from Whitman early next year, the buyer should have no excuse in delaying return of the questioned coin.

"As membership in ANA grows and increased funds become available, ANA will continue enlarging the services ANA can give to their members," Rochette promised. "If each ANA member will undertake to bring in just one new member we can hasten toward realization to these additional planned services."

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Ohio Publishing Firm Issues Second Almanac

Special sections on numismatics related to the U.S. Bicentennial and world coin and paper money collecting are featured in the enlarged and revised edition of the Coin World Almanac for 1977.

For thousands of serious collectors and numismatic researchers, the Almanac is one of the most informative and authoritative references on their bookshelf.

The 1977 Almanac contains more than 50 percent totally new information; with some 30 percent of the first edition's contents updated for the new issue by the editors.

The addition of more than 150 pages brings the 1977 Almanac to 1,002 pages, with a special focus on the world coin collector.

A book-length section has been added which tells how to order coins and paper money directly from 150 foreign

(See **Spotlight**, page 8)

NUMISMATIC BOOKS

FINE BOOKS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO COLLECTORS OF U.S. COINS AND CURRENCY

Akers, United States Gold Dollars NEW $5.95
Baker, Medallic Portraits of Washington R $24.50
Beistle, Half Dollar Varieties/Subvarieties OP $17.50
Betts, American Colonial History Illustrated by Contemporary Medals R $20.00
Bluestone, The Albert Grinnell Sales Catalogs $25.00
Bolender, United States Early Silver Dollars R $30.00
Bradbeer, Confederate and Southern States Currency R $12.50
Breen, Varieties of U.S. Gold Dollars, Three Dollar Pieces, Quarter Eagles, Half Eagles, Eagles—Seven Paperback Booklets, sold as a Set OP $7.95
Brown/Dunn, A Guide to the Grading of U.S. Coins $4.00
Burnie, Small California and Territorial Gold Coins OP $24.00
Cline, Standing Liberty Quarters NEW $4.95
Cohen, American Half Cents OP $15.00
Coin World Almanac 1976 ..... $10.00
Criswell, North American Currency 2nd Edition OP $15.00
Criswell, Confederate and Southern States Currency NEW $15.00
Crosby, Early Coins of America R $35.00
Dilliston, Bank Note Reporters and Counterfeit Detectors $6.50
Duphorne, Early Quarter Dollars of U.S. NEW $10.00
Durst, Comprehensive Guide to American Colonial Coinage NEW $11.95
Durst, Anthology of Early American Coppers Books $39.50
(Frossard, Hays, Crosby, Elder, Clapp, Newcomb, etc.)
(Prepublication price $32.50 Expected delivery 2/77)
Friedburg, Paper Money of the U.S. $17.50
Fuld, U.S. Civil War Tokens (2nd Edition) $35.00
Hessler, Comprehensive Catalog of U.S. Paper Money $20.00
Hibler/Kappen, So-Called Dollars OP $12.50
Kagin/Donlon, Catalog of Large Sized Paper Money $3.95
Kelman, Standing Liberty Quarters NEW $6.95
Kessler, The Fugio Cent NEW $18.50
Loubat, Medallic History of the United States R $22.50
Maris, Coins of New Jersey R $35.00
Miller, Analysis of Morgan and Peace Dollars NEW $15.00
Nelson, (Colonial) Coinage of William Wood NEW $3.00
Newman, Early Paper Money of America NEW $22.50
Newman/Bressett, Fantastic 1804 Dollar $3.50
Osbonne, Silver Dollars Encyclopedia NEW $15.00
Schilke, American Foreign Coins $6.95
Schonkman, A Survey of American Trade Tokens $25.00
Schwan/Toy, World War II Allied Military Currency $3.95
Silberman & Lapp, United States Large Cents 1793-1857 NEW $35.00
Slabough, Encased Postage Stamps (U.S. Money) $5.00
Slabough, United States Commemorative Coinage $4.00
Spanbauer, Colonial Copies, Private Mint Replicas and Modern Counterfeits U.S. Coins $4.95
Stefanelli, Two Centuries of American Banking NEW $6.00
Stewart, History of the First United States Mint R $15.00
Taxay, Counterfeit, Mis-Struck and Unofficial U.S. Coins $5.00
Taxay, Encyclopedia U.S. Coins 1976 ..... $15.00
Taxay, Illustrated History of U.S. Commemorative Coinage $6.50
Taxay, Money of the American Indians $5.95
Taxay, The U.S. Mint and Coinage $12.50
Thian, Register of the Confederate Debt R $20.00
Todd, Confederate Finance OP $14.00
Valentine, U.S. Half Dimes R $25.00
Van Allan/Mallis, Morgan and Peace Dollars NEW $19.50
Willem, The Trade Dollar $7.50
Wright, American Business Tokens $12.00

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Spotlight —

(From page 6)

nations. Also included is a listing of modern world mint marks and a catalog of FAO coin issues to date.

Besides the histories of the issue of the Bicentennial coinage and the new $2 bill, the section on Bicentennial numismatics contains what the editors call "the first extensive compilation" of Bicentennial medals, tokens and other numismatic collectibles issued by national, state and local governments, as well as private organizations and individuals.

As an aid to buying and selling coins and paper money and appraising collections, the 1977 Almanac includes price information on U.S. and world coins and currency.

For the first time, a trial listing of U.S. Assay Commission medals is included, together with a calendar of key dates through 1980, the latest information on postage rates and mailing regulations, a new section on U.S. paper money signatures and instructions on figuring bullion value of gold and silver coins as market prices for the metals fluctuate.

The 1977 Coin World Almanac is available from Amos Press, P.O. Box 150, Sidney, Ohio 45365.

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Durst Completing Guidebook, Inventory for Collector/Investor

A Collector/Investor Guidebook & Inventory" book with much needed, sought after information in such important and diverse areas as grading systems, auction procedures, shipping of collectibles (such as coins, stamps, antiques and paper money), customs problems, insurance of coins, medals, antiques and stamps is being completed by Sanford J. Durst, publisher and author of books for collectors.

Durst, now a prominent book distributor of coin and stamp titles, is eminently qualified to author such a title, being both a business attorney as well as admitted to practice before the U.S. (Federal) Tax Courts.

The edition initially prepared for use in the United States includes substantial information on capitol gains, estate and gift taxes, retirement funds, etc. as they exist in the U.S.

However, the book also includes many chapters on subjects important to all investors and collectors, wherever they are residing in the world, on which they are often misinformed, partially informed or not informed. They include: insurance, transfers by will, trading, mailing procedures, grading systems, auction procedures, liabilities of dealers and buyers to one another, proper storage, authentication, appraisals, avoiding customs problems, storage and security of valuable collections, advice to the non-collector who inherits a collection, and many other related areas. Forms and examples are included, when they are applicable.

The book will also include printed forms for retaining an inventory of over 2,000 collectible items. It is being specially bound in simulated leather, hard cover, which will lie flat for ease of writing.

Durst asserts that the price of the book would be the best investment a collector can make, making his collection more pleasurable and profitable by use of accurate record keeping. In addition, the other information provided could mean thousands of dollars saved in the area of disposal of items or taxes to a collector/investor, for his or her collection.

The Collector/Investor Guidebook & Inventory is available for $14.95, postpaid, directly from Sanford J. Durst, 133 E. 58th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022.

Columnist Palmer Just 'Fed Up'

Syndicated coin columnist Gary L. Palmer is "fed up."

Fed up with what he considers "inexcusable practices and problems" within the numismatic hobby . . . a hobby he feels could be significant in the future of the United States.

Palmer first points an accusing finger at the U.S. government, in a recently published column, a government which "moves haltingly at best" when it comes to numismatics, he says.

"Must the nation's early leaders, Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and the more current Kennedy and Eisenhower, continue to be the only ones to leave a legacy on the nation's coin?" he asks.

Instead, Palmer advocates commemorating U.S. achievements in science, industry, and space on future coinage. The government should "put the past to rest on America's coinage," he claims, especially if new coins now being considered are in fact minted.

And speaking of proposed new coinage, Palmer sharply criticizes the government for spending "thousands to have a study made to evaluate the nation's future coinage needs," only to balk at the suggestions and give no indication as to whether changes will indeed be made.

Next in line for Palmer's wrath are the "insensitive coin dealers," those who ignore the enthusiastic collector with a limited budget in favor of the customer (usually another dealer) with lots of money to spend.

"What is your obligation, professional numismatist?" Palmer questions. "To whom do you owe allegiance for your livelihood? The little collector, interested in coins as a lifelong hobby, or the man across the hall, in the same business with plenty of ready cash to spend?"

The public, Palmer avers, is too often shunted aside at major coin shows, and he blames the lack of young numismatists largely on the insensitivity of some dealers.

The columnist further attacks current grading standards, asking "what in heavens name is wrong with the good old Brown and Dunn grading book that for years was the standard determiner of a coin's condition?"

Squabbling within the numismatic community has led to such "idiotic descriptions as MS 70, MS 65, and MS 60, when in reality they are all for one coin . . . one that is in its original Mint state, direct off the coining presses," he declares.

With updating to take into account new issues, Palmer feels the Brown and Dunn book should be the only guide to coin grading.

Numismatics is beginning the nation's third century "in less than Proof-like condition," and though the rule is not to clean a tarnished coin, "the hobby had best clean its tarnished image," Palmer concludes.

★ ★ ★

Michigan Coin Supply Firm Reopens After Costly Fire

The nation's largest one-location coin and stamp supply company has reopened in Dearborn, Mich., following a Dec. 16 fire that levelled the firm's former quarters and disrupted business for two weeks.

F. A. "Tom" Jones, owner of Jones Coin & Stamp Supply Co., said the business has been rlocated at 15332 West Warren St., about 1.5 miles down the street from the former location, 10553 West Warren.

Jones said the fire, which consumed

more than $400,000 worth of coins and stamp supplies, including a "heavy inventory" of numismatic-philatelic books and catalogs, is believed to have started in a bowling alley upstairs in the two-story building. Sparks from a welding machine being used to repair a bowling machine were blamed for touching off the conflagaration.

In addition to the hobby supplies, Jones said a large "watch-cat" named Tigger was lost in the blaze.

Although the building was described as a total loss, Jones said the office area located in one corner of the building was spared from the fire, but received extensive water and "rubble damage." He said the business' records were recovered.

Jones, who is a familar figure at coin conventions throughout the nation, ran for the board of governors of the American Numismatc Association in 1975. He placed 10th in the balloting, receiving 4,725 votes.

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Viking Fans Offered Medal

The Minnesota Vikings beat the Los Angeles Rams to win the National Football Conference title Sunday afternoon, December 26, and at 7 a.m. the next morning, medals with a Super Bowl theme were being produced by Wendell's in Minneapolis. The medals are being distributed complimentarily by Twin City Federal Savings and Loan Association to customers and friends who visit any of their Minneapolis or St. Paul offices.

When the Vikings won the Central Division crown, the savings association placed an order with Wendell's for the engraving of the dies. This work was completed prior to the championship game, proofs approved, and the dies locked into the presses on the preceding Friday. If the Vikings won on Sunday, the presses started Monday morning. If the Vikings lost, the dies would be discarded.

The medals are in golden bronze, 1-5/16" diameter, with a modeled Viking portrait on the obverse and savings association trademark on the reverse.

Two sample medals will be sent to anyone sending $1 to Wendell's, P.O. Box 6024, Minneapolis, Minn. 55406.

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Agents Nab Big Haul of Fakes

"Probably one the the largest counterfeit seizures in Ohio" according to a Secret Service spokesman, was conducted recently at a graphic arts firm and two private residences in the Akron, Ohio, area.

"We're being conservative at $12 million," said Ronald Szago, special agent in charge of the U.S. Secret Service office in Cleveland, in describing the haul.

Four Ohio men were arrested in connection with the operation, which apparently was based at the Ellet Graphic Arts Co., located in Springfield Township, near Akron. A camera, platemaker, and paper cutter were discovered at that site. The printing is believed to have taken place at a private residence in Akron. Printing equipment and the counterfeit money were found there, where three of the men were arrested.

Thirty Pieces of Silver

— by Frank J. Caggiano

In 1976 the twin Holy Seasons of Passover and Easter fell in exactly the same sequence as almost two thousand years ago. During this time I have often reflected on the happenings so long ago. We all know that Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and we also know that Judas hanged himself in despair. The New Testament in Matthew 27:5 and Acts 1:7 state that the "blood money" was used to buy a burying ground for strangers. What ever happened to the actual 30 pieces of silver? No one knows for sure.

In 1956 a strange tale came out of the Holy Land concerning thirty pieces of silver. The story begins a hundred and fifty six years ago. In November 1820, a Hungarian adventurer named Ferencz Szecseny arrived in the Arab village of Deir el Ballad with much gold and a letter from the Turkish Governor General of Damascus authorizing him to conduct archeological exploration in Jerusalem, Hebron and the Dead Sea areas.

Szecseny made it known he was looking for a guide, strong men (willing to work for gold) and camels to carry supplies. His purpose was to scale Mt. Massada and to dig up the ruins of Herod's palace. The Arabs of Deor el Ballad knew nothing of Herod, Mt. Massada or Herods palace, but they did know the language of gold.

Within a few days Szecseny had a work force composed of thirty men, fifty camels and a guide. The guide, Mohammed Yazid Ibn Mahdawi, was also owner of forty of the camels in the caravan.

The caravan left the village and headed for the Dead Sea area. After an uneventful trip the caravan arrived at Massada. Upon their arrival at the base of Mt. Massada the men refused to climb the mountain, and only after Szecseny offered to double their pay did the Arabs agree to climb the treacherous mountain.

The fears of the men were justified for on the very first day two men fell to their deaths. By driving the workers at a brutal pace the Hungarian managed to find the foundations of Herod's palace in only two days. On the fourth day the diggers uncovered a vast subterranean vault lined with marble and filled with the debris of war.

The victorious Roman Legions must have looted the palace of all it's valuables before burning and razing it, because there was nothing of value left behind. With uncanny insight Szecseny ordered the workers to dig up the floor of the vault, and in a few hours a small cave was discovered.

The small cavern was full of broken swords, arrowheads and human skeletons. This grisly sight was heightened by shadows cast by the flickering candlelight. Szecseny guessed that

(Reprinted from *The Lamp*)

these were the remains of the Jewish defenders who would rather "fall on their swords" than surrender to the Legions of Rome.

Undeterred by the skeletons the adventurer kicked aside the bones and picked up an earthenware jar. The jar was intact and sealed tight. An inscription in ancient Aramaic was inscribed upon it.

Szecseny deciphered it as "This is cursed, evil, blood money. This is the price of betrayal. May any one who touches it for personal gain be haunted by its evil past."

Rather than keep the jar intact as any dedicated archeologist would, Szecseny smashed the jar to get at its contents. Out of the receptacle poured thirty pieces of silver. At the sight of the silver the Hungarian became terrified and stated "The thirty pieces of silver, thirty shekels, the blood money of Our Lord Jesus Christ" and fell to his knees. He crossed himself with the Sign of the Cross.

The Arab workers not brave men at anytime, became panic stricken at the sight of their Leader's strange behavior and bolted from the cave leaving it in darkness.

Mohammed helped Szecseny scoop up some of the coins in the dark. Szecseny stated "We will come back tomorrow and search the cave for the coins we've missed and for more treasure. If I can prove that these are the payment Judas Iscariot received for betraying Jesus Christ, I can sell them for fortune to Christian Churches and to the Holy See. I'll be a millionaire." Mohammed Yazid answered "But you said yourself that the money is cursed." Szecseny only laughed "Who believes in such superstition now?"

Szecseny never returned to the cave, for the next morning while dressing he was bitten by a scorpion which had hidden in his boot. He died on November 12, 1820 in St. Joseph's Hospital of Mercy, and was buried in the Christian Cemetery on Mt. Scopus. His grave can be seen even today.

Bad luck stalked all the members of the expedition. The Arab workmen who entered the cave were all stricken by mysterious maladies, bitten by snakes and attacked by rabid dogs. Mohammed lost all his camels to a strange disease. He was reduced from a rich and influential man to a pauper. His wife and children were stricken also.

Too late did he remember he was guilty of theft as well as desecration, because in the confusion of Szecseny's agony he stole the cursed coins from his bag. The Guide in a desparate attempt to rid himself of the curse went to see the Abbe Paul St. Cloud, Superior of a French Carmelite Monastary in Jerusalem and told his story and begged the Abbe to remove the curse from him.

Abbe Paul had the story recorded and dispatched a messenger, with the twelve coins that had been taken from the cave and a copy of the story, to France.

Again tragedy struck and the messenger was captured by bandits, his throat slit, and all he possessed, including the coins, was stolen. These twelve coins were never found despite the reward of a thousand gold dinars made by Abbe Paul.

In 1829 Abbe Paul and sixteen monks were murdered by an Albanian usuper named Mohammed Ali and his son Ibrihim el Awal who set up a new royal dynasty in Egypt. Only one Monk named Hieronymus and two Christian Arabs escaped the massacre of Mohammed Ali's victorious troops.

Fra Hieronymus and the two Arab Christians took a copy of the manuscript of Mohammed Yazid's story with them. They attempted to cross the Sinai Desert and escape to France, but they became lost. They arrived at the Greek Orthodox Mon-

estary of St. Catherine sick, exhausted and in a severe state of dehydration. They died within three months. The manuscript was placed in the library of St. Catherine's. This library has one of the largest collections of ancient manuscripts in the world.

In 1859, the village of Dier el Ballad was wiped off the map by an earthquake. After the destruction of Deir el Ballad the matter of the "blood money" of Massada rested for one hundred and twenty seven years. In November 1956, Israeli forces in the Sinai Campaign visited St. Catherine's and the Monks invited them to be their guests. For as long as the Israeli forces were in the Sinai, Israeli scholars studied the ancient manuscripts.

Among the scholars was Prof. Yigael Yadin, former Israeli Chief of Staff. The Israelis studied Abbe Paul's record and the story of the "blood money" of Massada was resurrected. Prof. Yadin spent almost three years raising money to mount an expedition to Mt. Massada. There he found the remaining eighteen pieces of silver. A study of the coins showed that they could be the coins of the Betrayel since they were of Christ's time.

If they were THE COINS how did they get into the palace with the last of the Jewish defenders of Herod's fortess? We can only conjecture.

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WHAT IS A NAME?

— by Clement F. Bailey, NLG

On October 20th, it was my pleasure to speak at the annual banquet of the Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Coin Club. The assigned subject was the symbolism and designs of United States coins.

After the program, it dawned on me that the current names of our coins are taken from the portraits on the pieces.

We have Lincoln cents, Jefferson nickels, Roosevelt dimes, Washington quarters, Kennedy half dollars and Eisenhower dollars. Maybe that doesn't seem odd to the newer collectors in the hobby, but it does to some of the old timers.

We used to collect Morgan dollars (named after the designer), as well as Walking Liberty half dollars or Mercury dimes which carried the design of Liberty with wings as a head piece. The designer always insisted that it was a Liberty with wings to show "freedom of thought." It shouldn't be overlooked that we also called the nickel the Buffalo nickel which was the design on the reverse.

We don't suppose anyone ever thought about collecting Anna Williams dollars, or those with the Peace design as Theresa Carfarelli de Francisci coins! On the other hand, we aso don't make a big to do about the Indian head cent (or is it Liberty in a bonnet?) and call it the Sarah Longacre cent.

The Mercury dime and the Walking

Liberty could also be called the Elsie Kachel Stevens coins for the lady who originally posed for a study by Adolph Weinman.

Weinman has often been overlooked when the talk is reduced to Treasury Department contests for design winners. In fact, most of us that write in the hobby usually consider Felix Schlag as one of the first to win such a design contest. Weinman has often been mentioned as using the design of Elsie Stevens — a classic beauty — "won the competition for a design for the new dime and half dollar issued by the United States Treasury Department in 1916."

At the other end of the design notation trail, we find the actual artist name being used. We always refer to the Anna Williams Liberty head dollar as a Morgan dollar, in reference to George T. Morgan, the designer.

With mention of gold coins, the first name to be heard is Saint-Gaudens, and that of an earlier designer usually comes in second, Christian Gobrecht.

There is one problem with Augustus Saint-Gaudens and that is his name. A number of collectors have figured that the title of Saint was earned and by some canonization process became a Saint; that isn't true, but is interesting, although it seems that the hobby has taken the great Irish sculptor and completed the process.

Was Mary Cunningham the actual model for his famous double eagle? At the time the rumor went the rounds, it was figured that such an Irish maid should not have posed for a "pure American" coin.

It is further stated that the body seen under the Irish head on the Saint-Gaudens $20 gold coin are really the features of a Swedish girl.

At the same time, the profile of the Indian or Liberty on the $10 gold coin was supposed to be that of a person with Negro blood, and objected to by a great many at the time of issue. The profile can also be traced back to a Greek design of 165 B.C.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens, according to his son, Homer Saint-Gaudens, always rejected the least taint of any "personality" of any of his models.

Other coins have been out of the lime light and for some reason many of them never picked up the profile on the coin, nor did they pick up any association with their designer.

Probably the most interesting piece for those interested in pollution were the designs of Bela Lyon Pratt, the incused $2.50 and $5 gold coins of 1908 to 1929. His designs were criticized, as are all new ideas.

The incused design was supposed to be a germ catcher, and if the same pieces were being produced today, it would have to be that some agency of the government would pass a regulation which they call a "law" to take the pieces off of the market for the same idea.

A number of complaints had to do with the coins not stacking . . . that the Indian was skinny, that they would be easy to counterfeit, and that the eagle was European and not American.

The Indian was defended as being a typical native and not one fattened by royalties from oil discovered on a reservation. The incuse design was described as being taken from the glorious tradition in Egyptian art.

The coins are often called the "Indian head" but have to be qualified as quarter eagles or half eagles. None are called Pratt coins!

What is a name?

★ ★ ★

Wooden nickels originated in Tenino, Wash., during the 1931-1935 depression, when they were used as a substitute for coins. Today they are used for advertising and souvenir purposes.

Re-engraved Coins Teach Costly Lessons to Unwary

—by Kurt R. Kruger, NLG

All too often I have heard nasty comments regarding coin dealers in general. Certainly, in some cases, off-color language seems proper, but including the entire dealer fraternity is totally out of line.

Collectors have a responsibility to know something about their hobby. While there are people in the business who conduct themselves in a manner which is less than square, the great majority of dealers give the customer a straight shot.

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A great majority of the problems people run into could have been avoided through the use of a simple magnifying glass, and a bit of basic knowledge.

A couple months back, I was approached by an elderly gentleman on the purchase of his set of Indian cents. As soon as he parted the page of his deluxe album, I knew there would be problems. His supposed uncirculated set of Indian cents was grossly worked over. Among the more interesting specimens in his set was a fine or so 1872, which had the diamonds re-engraved.

The comical part of this particular coin was that the person who did the job put on six diamonds. To top it off, the coin was whizzed, as were virtually all of the coins in the set. There were others with the proper number of re-engraved diamonds.

I was in a dilemma of sorts, as I knew that if this person was so inexperienced as to purchase these doctored coins as uncirculated, he would certainly question my opinion of them and accuse me of trying to buy his coins for a sum far below their true value.

My suspicions were confirmed immediately following my evaluation and explanation of the evaluation to the man. Naturally, one could not blame a person for being upset knowing that his investment was worth perhaps only 25% of his cost, yet he admitted to

(See **Lessons**, page 18)

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Note: The Society year runs from May 1 of one year to April 30 of the next year.

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Lessons —

(From Page 15)

the faet of not even owning a magnifying glass! He left eompletely peeved at all eoin dealers, and even went so far as to say that the entire lot should be thrown in jail.

A few years baek, a good friend of mine was elated to show me his latest aequisition of a supposed sharp XF 1926-D Buffalo niekel. This partieular date is notoriously weakly struek. His obvious joy was the sharp full horn residing on the stately bison on the reverse. I had my suspicions, and a fast glanee with my glass proved that the horn was re-engraved.

My friend, a eolleetor of many years, was rather embarrassed to think he had been taken on the deal. His pride was hurt more than knowing his investment was worth only about a third of the purchase priee of the eoin.

A elassie example of deeeit turned up at the ANA Summer Seminar during the Summer of 1975. A young chap from New York showed me the pride of his collection, a 1793 Wreath eent. The eoin was of a low grade, but the date was fully readable. The only problem was that the date had been engraved on the smooth planehet and then had been darkened.

I will admit that from arms length the eoin did look fine, but under magnifieation, the entire story unfolded. Fortunately, a large sum was not involved, but it eertainly turned out to be an expensive lesson for this budding young numismatist.

My experience has taught me that doetored coins turn up most frequently in the Morgan dollar series. The obvious reason for this is the speetaeular priee increase from grade to grade on many of the dates. A short time ago I had the oecasion to purehase a complete high-grade set of Morgan dollars. The two brothers who had assembled the set did so on an investment basis about six years ago. Virtually all the eoins had been sold to them as uneirculated. The set was very pleasing, but there were a couple of real offenders ineluded.

The 1879-CC at first glanee appeared to be an Une. 60. Upon close examination, however, it was obvious the features on the eagle's breast had been re-engraved. The obverse hairlines also showed signs of re-engraving. This at-first-glanee $500 eoin had a value of about $75 for someone looking for a niee hole-filler.

The 1893-CC was another phoney grade. First of all, the eoin had been whizzed. It retained a fair amount of its feathers on the eagle's breast. The hair, however, was almost totally re-engraved. This supposed $700 eoin had a true value of about $100.

Inasmueh as the people who assembled this set had purehased it a number of years ago, they were able to reeover their eost. But the profit they were entitled to, beeause dollars had inereased in value substantially, was lost to the work-beneh of some dishonest person who preyed upon their inexperienee.

The thing that bothers me the most about situations such as those pointed out above is that often people buy their material through the mail and at coin shows away from their home. I am not saying that one should not deal through the mail or at a eonvention. This is often necessary to seeure desired items, but the problem eomes when the person eomes to his loeal eoin shop to attempt to sell this material. The legitimate dealer has to bear the frustration of the owner. The loeal dealer often has to inform the person of those artieles whieh have been reworked. In too many eases, the party who has been cheated makes a snap judgement and refrains from rejoining the eolleeting ranks.

(See **Lessons,** page 31)

Marital Coins and Exonumia — Past and Present

— by Gerald E. Johnson

The institution of marriage has shaped the social structure of the world we know today to a large degree, and the world wide acceptance of one form or another, of the connubial rite has spawned dozens of numismatic specimens eagerly sought by collectors of the midwest and the world. These early marriage coins and medals, along with the humble "love tokens" of the 1800's and contemporary marriage medallions of the 20th century are a collection in themselves!

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Marriage of course predates man made laws and even history, evolving from the stone ages and refined and redefined giving us many "time honored customs." During the creation of this article I discussed marriage with both men and women, and found there are very few people in todays busy social whirl that have even the shakiest idea of how or where our marriage customs were derived.

In the beginning the very early man was not the monogamous person he is considered now, but somewhere along the line in prehistoric times, it became evident to even the cave man, that having one wife at a time was probably the least abrasive way of life.

Modern marriage has trickled down to us from this ideological start in a series of developments that can be roughly described as three major steps.

The first stage was marriage by possession, (or capture) and from this stage we today derive the terms "Best Man" and "Honeymoon." The early man, out to seek and capture a wife, naturally went to distant places, fearing the wrath of distant tribes less than those closeby where he derived his livelyhood. On his search for a mate he took with him a strong armed friend to ward off pursuit in the event of a chase. With his captured prize he then went into hiding to await a cooling of the tibal wrath that would surely follow his theft of a bride, hence the honeymoon. Todays young people go on a "honeymoon," their destination unknown to the public and

their friends, perhaps with the exception of the groom's "Best Man" who rarely has to beat off the pursurers in todays society.

Assertive and masculine dominated as it was, marriage by capture had several major flaws, the primary problem being the importance of the bride. If the unfortunate bridegroom happened to steal the woman of an important tribal leader, severe pursuit and perhaps even war between tribes would follow. The bride in most cases posed no problem, any man who could successfully capture a bride and bring her home safely from a distant place was a man to look up to! Furthermore, one husband was much preferable to the women than the attentions of all the men of her home tribe. The solution to the several problems of wife theft was logical, step number two, marriage by bater.

Barter in preferenee to warfare was an easy choice, although the costs were no doubt exorbitant, such as several stone implements, or a number of animal skin pelts, but this was a small price to pay for not having to look fearfully over your shoulder for the rest of your life. The purchase price of course would be determined by the womans rank and standing within the tribe, and in part her strength and health. A good working wife, then as now, was a prime asset. In the late stages of marriage by barter we find the Anglo Saxon word "wed," a word deserihing a fee paid by the bridegroom to the guardian of the prospective bride. Thus the consent of the guardian was in those times more a matter of neeessity than good manners and etiquette.

It was not until the 10th century that the third step began, that of marriage by choice. Love however seems to have existed long before this time as evidenced by ancient folk lore, and with the advent of christianity mar-

riage by pure barter was pretty much a thing of the past. However, the offshoot of marriage by choice was a form of marriage of convenience. In this way the daughters of the wealthy were matched to sons of the wealthy, the poor to the poor, and royalty matched empires in the marriages of their children.

The Chinese version of marriage by arrangement was perhaps the most publicized and condemned in present times, but even with the advent of Christianity the peasant farmer betrothed his daughter to the young man with the most cattle, or a fine team of horses, pure economics! The Kings of the world meanwhile, betrothed their children to powerful allies, a custom of which the residue still exists today in royalty.

With the council of trent in 1563 a measure of ceremony began to be attached to the marriage. Antiquity tacked on many more marriage customs, the wedding flowers were originally garlands of wheat to symbolize a fruitful union, the wedding ring placed on the left hand to indicate submission to the husband (the right hand indicating power), the ring itself believed to be a hand me down from the ankle chains of early prisoner brides, and the ring finger chosen from Greek legend that indicated a direct bloodline from a vein in the finger to the heart.

The attendants are of the Roman custom that demanded ten witnesses, the rice thrown as an appeasement to a variety of evil spirits at the ceremony, and the shoe attached to the auto symbolizing the transfer of authority from the father to the groom.

The marriage feast and wedding cake stem directly from the day of barter, when to sit down and eat together acknowledged kinship.

So, my fellow marital slaves, beneath the artful marriage medal engraving and flowery lyric inscriptions are marriage customs filled with uncultured and barbaric origins (back when men were men?), but until mankind has evolved a new and just as meaningful set of nuptial symbols, we are stuck with them. It makes you wonder if the marriage medals themselves might hide some old and secret meanings.

CALENDAR OF STATE CONVENTIONS

Officials of state numismatic organizations within the 13-state Central States area are invited to submit information relative to their annual conventions for listing in The Centinel's "Calendar of State Conventions." Convention information should be sent to the Editor as soon as dates have been confirmed to allow for timely publication.

★ ★ ★

ILLINOIS

Sept. 9-11, 1977 ..... Arlington Heights
Illinois Numismatic Association 17th annual convention, Arlington Park Hilton Hotel.

Chairman: William Litwick. Bourse: Moose Foster. Exhibits: Larry Vonyx. Mailing address: P.O. Box 902, Arlington Heights, Ill. 60006.

★ ★ ★

WISCONSIN

April 30-May 1, 1977 ..... Green Bay
Numismatists of Wisconsin annual convention, Brown County Arena and Midway Motor Lodge, Green Bay.

Chairman: Mike Segersin, 1159 Day St., Green Bay, Wis. 54302.

The ABCs of Numismatics

— *by Daniel C. Parker, NLG*

Part 13
The Fascination With Rarities

This writer has never known a collector who could not be "turned on" by the holy of holies, the rarity, the coin available only to the wealthy and most dedicated collector. The study of coins may be pursued at major shows, museums, and from time to time in the examination of a famous collection. Recently, such a collection was made available to all of the coin collecting fraternity.

As you may have read in the numismatic publications, the famed Eliasberg collection went on extended view at the United States Mint in Philadelphia. It remained available for inspection by the averaged collector, until the first of the year,* through the generosity of a dedicated, discriminating collector, Louis Eliasberg, financier and numismatist of Baltimore. When we speak of a collection, this one must be the most fantastic ever assembled. A collection so complete, it contains several coins that not even can be found in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution!!

Recently, Coin World ran a series of articles written by Mr. Eliasberg and telling of his predeliction with the assembling of the collection. Mr. Eliasberg told of his pursuit of the great rarities over a period of many, many years. In spite of his desire to put together a complete collection of U.S. coins, Mr. Eliasberg exercised judgement and discrimination. He did not buy, buy, buy! Always his desire to possess was tempered by the numismatist's credo: "Is it the finest available? Will it be available again, soon? **Does it do justice to my collection?"**

Mr. Eliasberg was never "stingy" about sharing his collection, nor was he averse to showing it under proper circumstances. At a major convention several years ago, this writer had the good fortune to be a member of a small-but-select party invited to view the collection. Yes, we were in the proper company, as may be well imagined. Any collection of this magnitude and value would entail strictest security. From Washington, D.C., we were driven to Baltimore and there enjoyed the collector's wildest dream!

A short time ago, we again indulged ourselves in the opportunity to view the entire collection. Athough it is a day's drive from our hometown, it entails the expenditure of some few dollars, it was planned so we could spend an entire day in pure reveling — numismatically. The Mint staff always are accommodating. They are more than happy to point out the highlights of the collection to anyone asking.

The experience will be the high point in the collecting career of even the rankest novice. Don't miss the op-

portunity! It is worth whatever the cost in time and money.

This writer's career in numismatics goes back to the time of B. Max Mehl's ads in hundreds of magazines, papers, and periodicals: "Pay $50 for a 1913 Liberty Head Nickel." We knew from our study that only 6 specimens of this coin exisited. Yes, Mr. Eliasberg's collection contains one!

Later, we became aware of the "King of American Coins," the 1804 silver dollar. One holds a special place in the Eliasberg collection. However, there are coins in the collection that are by far rarer than these selected for mention by this writer. We can only recommend that you study your numismatic literature prior to going to Philadelphia. At least, go through your Red Book!

We have had the opportunity to see most of the above mentioned coins. It is our belief that one of the owners of the 1913 nickel probably enjoyed his coin more than anyone who does possess such a rarity. Mr. McDermott of Milwaukee used to carry one around with which he enjoyed startling the casual viewer. We can remember, at a Central States convention, Mr. McDermott dropped one on the bar and asked the barkeep if it "would buy him a beer!" We later learned that as a knowledgeable dealer, he didn't do anything so foolish. It was either an electro or an altered date that he bandied about so carelessly.

The 1804 dollar has been studied and written up by far more qualified students than you and me. Eric Newman of Missouri wrote a book on it alone. All known specimens have been "pedigreed."

It was our good fortune to have been a part of the convention committee when the last specimen, purportedly the "King of Siam" specimen was revealed at the ANA convention of 1962. However, we were shown a carefully encased copy at a major show in Chicago. The owner told of its being in his family for many, many years. We examined it with more than casual interest. A couple of years later, we were again handed a copy in Cleveland. It was identical, bruise for bruise and scratch for scratch. Our guess: a couple of electros!! We have seen altered dates, and one day we may see an out and out counterfeit!

Avail yourself of the one great chance to see everything the United States has ever minted. Go and see the fabulous Eliasberg collection at the Philadelphia Mint!!

*(Editor's note: The loan exhibit of the priceless Louis Elasberg coin and currency collection, containing a specimen of every United States coin regularly minted for circulation since 1792, has been extended at the Philadelphia Mint for an additional six months, through June 30.

The Eliasberg exhibit opened last spring as part of the Mint's Bicentennial celebration, and was scheduled to close at the end of the year. Through the courtesy of the Eliasberg family, the extension has been arranged to accommodate the many coin clubs and other groups who have expressed the desire to view the spectacular collection.

(See **ABCs**, page 32)

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PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL MEDALS

— by Jack D. Huggins, Sr.

Election day, November 2, 1976, has come and gone. The President-elect is chosen on the first Tuesday in November and is inaugurated on the following January 20th. This allows just a little more than two months in which to form the committees and subcommittees, choose the artist, medalist and design, and bring the entire creation of the official Presidential Inaugural Medal to production and delivery.

I collect the official inaugural medals of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the U.S. Some of you may have seen my various medals on display in the exhibit section of coin shows. I wait for every four years to come and pass. The period between the election and the inauguration has the most precious of memories, so much is happening!

First we went to the polls and selected the man of our choice. (Perhaps in years to come it should be man or woman.) Then we wait during the wonderful evening and long into the night — on into the wee hours of the next morning — before we learn we have chosen the "man of the hour." This man in the coming four years, we sincerely hope, will lead our country.

Within the next 79 days, committees are formed to inaugurate the President-elect. One of their many duties is to select an artist, then to finalize his creation, and select a medalist to produce the medal. It will be delivered to dealers and the ultimate buyer, the collector.

Oh, how I long to be involved in this process! I would consider this to be the purpose of my existance if I could participate somehow in this task. But I wait anxiously for any news from various newspapers or trade periodicals on who the artist is, his creation, and as far as the medalist is concerned, it usually is the Medallic Art Company or The Franklin Mint.

Finally, the day comes when I come home and find the medal has been delivered. This is quite an occasion, unwrapping the package, and first viewing the medal. It is then added to my personal collection, complete to date.

But now, I can help you experience

this wonderful occasion by reliving the past.

First, why don't you start collecting only the official inaugural medals issued since you were able to vote for the President. Then after you complete this series, go back and start collecting from the date you were born until the time you were able to vote.

Then I can help you go back to the beginning, and that was 1893, when the first official inaugural medal and badge were selected and used for the inauguration of Presdent Grover Cleveland, and Vice-President Adlai Stevenson.

Now, in my case, the first election I voted was in November of 1948. We had two men from which to choose on the major tickets: the Republican was Thomas E. Dewey, former Governor of New York, and President Harry S. Truman. I had to vote by absentee ballot, as I was traveling at that time for the company by whom I was employed, doing a series of audits in Cincinnati, Ohio. I was staying at the Netherland Plaza Hotel. My ballot arrived only a few days before the election and I voted, but I had to have it notarized. Unable to locate a notary during the evening hours, I merely mailed my ballot in a day before the election. I doubt very much if it was counted, but anyway it did not matter, because I voted for the loser! I made a serious mistake in my youth at that time and I have made many since. I did not vote for one of our greatest presidents, Harry S. Truman.

Now, we work from Truman forward. Example: if you were first eligible to vote in November, 1960, then start with the President John F. Kennedy medal. With this you could collect only bronze medals, and later acquire the silver medals.

There are many ways we can collect, one example being the medals of only the Democrats, or only those of the Republicans.

And while doing so, we can pick up knick-knacks, such as campaign buttons, memorabilia and exonumia along the way. Wherever your desires may travel, there are many items of collectible nature associated with the political affairs of state.

You will find a short supply of reference materials regarding official inaugural medals. The major one in the field, of course, is Richard B. Dusterberg's book, THE OFFICIAL INAUGURAL MEDALS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES. It is my understanding — and I wait for it on the edge of my chair — that a new edition is to be published. Likewise, Neil MacNeil, Washington correspondent on the staff of Time Magazine, is in the process of releasing his text, another book for which I anxiously wait.

As to exhibits of the medals, I know of only a few, namely Dr. Darrell C. Crain, Jr.'s exhibition at the George Washington University Library of Washington, D.C. during the summer of 1976. I was unable to see this last year, but have been told by friends that I was the loser for missing it. Also another appearing at the East Coast coin shows was the exhibit of Edward P. Smith, an exhibitor and collector, and on the West Coast by Robert Whitehead. Both of these gentlemen I have met at various ANA conventions but have never seen their exhibits.

And there must be many more inaugural collectors. If so, I would be interested in hearing from each of you, as we should establish a spin-off group to meet annually at annual ANA conventions.

(Editor's note: Persons wishing to contact Mr. Huggins may do so by addressing their letters to him at 103 Powder Mill Road, Belleville, Ill. 62223.)

WHAT OUR CLUBS HAVE TO SAY

Indiana Regional Group Elects New Officer Slate

Results of the recent election of officers of the Northwest Indiana Numismatic Association have been announced in that club's latest newsletter.

J. T. Pollock was selected president for the upcoming term, succeeding the first NINA head Paul Flick, who was named treasurer of the club. Louis Iavarone and J. A. Feather will serve as first and second vice presidents, respectively.

Other officers will include Pat Kelly, secretary, Robert Santell, publicity secretary, Delmar Henning, sergeant-at-arms, and Hazel Tipton, historian.

Also announced in the newsletter were the winners in competitive exhibiting at the NINA second annual coin show.

Louis Iavarone's complete set of Peace dollars from 1921 to 1935 won him the Best of Show trophy.

"United States Essai Dimes" was the title of the display by Gene Wolf, which took the first place award, and Del Henning finished second with an exhibit of Proof Canadian Olympic coinage.

Paul Flick's U.S. 20th Century Type Set won him the third place trophy, while an exhibit of coins used during the terms of four assassinated U.S. Presidents, Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, and Kennedy, by Robert Santell, was good for fourth place. Kate Kielpikowski's collection of ancient Roman coins, featuring one piece for each emperor covering 250 years, took fifth place.

Iavarone was also presented with a special award in recognition of service and dedication to the organization.

NINA, formed in 1974, now boasts 16 Indiana clubs within its membership ranks. Additional information concerning membership can be gained by writing the club at Box 3102, Munster, Ind. 46321.

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Louisville Club Hosts Kentucky State Show

More than 3,000 coin enthusiasts were on hand for the two-day annual fall show of the Louisville Coin Club, sponsored by the Kentucky State Numismatic Association at the Louisville Stouffer's Inn.

In addition to bourse activity conducted by 77 dealers, and exhibiting in six categories, the KSNA also held a business session during which officers for the 1977 term were selected.

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Bernie Allgier, who served as hospitality chairman for the show was elected president of the KSNA, while Mary Ann Jewell, the show chairman of chance sales, was named first vice president. The second vice president spot went to Anthony Sturgeon Jr., the show's bourse chairman, and Edna Annan was elected to the secretary /treasurer post.

KSNA directors will be James LeFever, Dr. George Sullivan, Mildred Allgier, and John Blunk, the show's exhibit chariman.

Dr. Sullivan was also significant in the competitive exhibit department, winning both the KSNA Best of Show Award and first place in Class I-U.S. Coins, with his display of "Two Faced Coins." Second place in the class went to Ken Kerr's Liberty dimes.

In Class II-Paper Money, Ed Richt's collection of "Small Types and Nationals, Obsolete and Broken Bank Notes" was good for first place, while Bernie Allgier took second with his Small types.

Top spot in Class III-Foreign Coins went to David Frohman, with Jane Blunk second, and Class IV-Miscellaneous and Specialized honors went to Karen Ann LeFever for her American Presidents medals. This exhibit also won her the Louisville Coin Club Best of Show award. Second place in the division was given to Taylor Duncan for "A Tribute to Jefferson."

Doug Jewell led Class V-Junior Exhibits with his "Swindler's Nickel" display which not only won him first place in the category, but also the KSNA Junior Best of Show award. Lee Jewell's exhibit of new $2 notes finished second.

Finally, Class VI-Non Competitive awards were presented to Clem Rowe for his ancient coin display, and Bernie Allgier for a showing of the KSNA Gold Medal.

Show officials were well satisfied with the outcome of the event, and were especially pleased with the excellent quality of exhibits, displayed during the show, a spokesman said.

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Missouri Organization Reports on Activities

A comprehensive discussion of half-dollar die varieties at the 401st meeting of the Missouri Numismatic Society, October 26th, encompassed not ony characteristics of the coins and related contributing factors, but explored in depth the late numismatist Al C. Overton's approach to the subject as illustrated in his book, "Early Half Dollar Die Varieties 1794-1836." Using some 55 slides from the personal library of Overton, member Robert Knowles described the author's use of measurements and relative position of design components to identify various dies. "A cataloguing device used by Overton," said Knowles, "was a numbering and lettering system employing numbers for the obverse and letters for the reverse."

Knowles pointed out that necessity for hand-cut dies at the time resulted in crudeness and irregularity of feature, at the same time rendering coins distinctive as work of a particular engraver. He commented that due to the

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non-minting of dollars from 1804 until the 1830's, the half dollars became our nation's largest silver coin, resulting in the hoarding of many.

The society's September 28th meeting featured member Ronald Horstman who narrated 75 slides prepared by the Check Collectors Round Table. Included was the history of checks from early Roman days through handwritten checks of the early 1500's; the first printed checks of 1762; vignettes used on checks and bank notes; and modern pictorial checks. Horstman displayed 18 checks of St. Louis including proof checks of Boatman's Bank and two drawn on Missouri territorial banks, as well as two cases of related material including a lithographing stone used to print checks and two sample sheets from check printing companies.

An innovation of the club is an official MNS periodic publication (frequency of issue undetermined at this point) titled: "Missouri Journal of Numismatics." Designed to report club news and special evcnts, and divcrsified numismatic articles, the first issue released in August, 1976, scrved as the program for the organization's 17th Annual Coin Festival as well. Plans are underway for the club's 18th Annual Coin Festival at the St. Louis Marriott Motor Hotel, August 12-14, 1977.

The society has convertcd from a fiscal to a calendar year with present officers serving an extended term of 16 months from Septemebr, 1976, to January, 1978. Monthly attendance sustains an average of approximatcly 65 persons, and membership continues to grow steadily as demonstrated by the admission of 4 new applicants in September and 5 in October. One of the club's most important assets is the enlarging of a numismatic library available to all members frec of charge, and to non-members for on-the-spot reference.

Newly-elected officers for the September, 1976 - January, 1978 term are: Michael Pfefferkorn, president; Roger Munie, 1st vice-president; James Moores, 2nd vice-president; Sidney L. Nusbaum, corresponding secretary; Ed Schroeder, recording secretary; Russell Vogelsang, treasurer; and Robert Knowles, chairman of the Board of Governors.

Members of the Board of Governors: Frank Shea, Mary Munie, Frank Clemens, John Joster, Jack Huggins, Charles Hileman, and Bill Abbett.

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Exhibits Add Flavor To Harvey, Illinois Show

Fifteen coin dealers and more than 200 visitors were on hand for the Club of Illinois Numismatists Coin Show, held recently at the Holiday Inn of Harvey, Ill.

Club members and two non-members participated in competitive exhibiting which included displays of U.S. and foreign money, commemorative and Proof gold, and other miscellaneous presentations.

First place in U.S. money went to Judd McCarthy, Chicago, Ill., for his collection entitled "Types of Fractional Currency." Second place in the category went to Rich Urbon, Crete, Ill., and third was Roy Wortendyke, Monee, Ill.

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Ed Blaha, Jr., Markham, Ill., took top honors in foreign money with his display of Philippine Type coins. Ed Blaha Sr., Chicago, Ill., was second, and Roy Wortendyke was third.

The first place award in commemorative and Proof gold also went to Ed Blaha Jr. There were no second or third places awarded in this division.

In the miscellaneous category, John Peterson's emergency currency was good for first place, and another of his displays came in third. Peterson is from Glenwood, Ill. Jim Walker, Blue Island, Ill., was awarded second place.

Lou Iavaronne's U.S. Peace dollars won him first place in the non-member segment.

Ed Blaha Sr. was bourse chairman for the show, with Blaha Jr. exhibit chairman, and John Peterson hall chairman.

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Officers Elected At Greencastle

New officers for 1977 have been announced by the Putnam County Coin Club, Greencastle, Ind.

Richard Coffin, vice president in 1976, was elected president of the group, to be assisted by vice president Charles Carmichael. Joe Bauman will handle the chores of secretary, and Ted Glidewell was named treasurer.

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Iowa State Group Announces Leadership

The Iowa Numismatic Association has announced the election of officers for the upcoming term.

John Kelso, Cedar Rapids, will serve as president, with Harry Peters, Kanawha, as first vice president, and Don Mark, Des Moines, second vice president. Secretary-treasurer will be JoAnn Peters, Kanawha.

Directors selected are Gene Boyd, Davenport, and Wilbur Balmos, Muscatine, first district; James R. Hamling, Cedar Rapids, second district; Bill Bright, Waterloo, third district; Raymond Ryan, Chelsea, fourth district; Doris Nelson, Ames, fifth district; Dean Peterson, Sioux City, sixth district; Marjorie Owen, Adel, seventh district; and Don Watts, Clarion, Jack Feild, Cedar Rapids, and M. A. Peterson, Clear Lake, directors-at-large.

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Warren, Michigan, Club Hosts Fall Show

Four educational exhibits, 27 coin dealers, and a juniors money guess were the highlights of the recent Warren Coin Club fall show, held at the Executive Inn hotel, Warren, Mich.

J. R. Drazem's history of WCC shows, and Richard Sharon's off-center Lincoln cents, were exhibits in the adult category, while Robert Sharon's Bicentennial Type set, and Debra Sharon's Roosevelt dime display constituted the junior exhibits.

General show chairman Don Graham, and bourse chairman George Wanzug rated the show an overall success, thanks to the efforts of Lee Graham, Fran Wanzug, Phyllis Davis, Walter Kramer, and Bill Davis.

Florence Schook, secretary of the Michigan State Numismatic Society, was also on hand to sign up new members for the MSNS and the ANA.

Wisconsin Club Strikes Medal for Park

The Oshkosh, Wis., Public Museum recently received a silver medal to commemorate the dedication of Glatz Nature Park in Oshkosh last July 4, a local Bicentennial project.

The famous "Spirit of '76" trio are depicted on the obverse of the medal, which was presented to the museum by Winnebago Conservation Club representatives Frank Zuern and Lyle Roe.

The reverse carries the legend: Winnebago Conservation Club/Glatz/ Nature Park/July 4, 1976/Oshkosh, Wis.

Specimens of the 39-millimeter medal are available to collectors struck in bronze, at $1.75 each. They may be ordered from Winnebago Conservation Club, 1932 Vinland Road, Oshkosh, Wis. 54901.

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Holland Club Picks Officers

New officers for the Holland Coin Club, Holland, Mich., were elected at the group's December meeting.

The new officers are: Robert L. Kole, president; Maro Sgroia and Wesley Wenzel, vice presidents, Roberta Pierce, secretary; and, Gerald Finck, treasurer.

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Gasper Wins Honors During Aurora Srow

Best of Show award from the Nov. 14, Aurora Coin Club Show, Aurora, Ill., was presented to George Gasper of Joliet, Ill. The award winning display consisted of Israel Pidyon Haben coins.

Other exhibits vying for the coveted award included a display of 1878 U.S. silver dollar varieties and a unique U.S. two-cent variety.

Michigan Group Elects Officers

New officers for the Michigan State Numismatic Society were elected at the group's 21st annual convention Nov. 26-28.

The new officers are: I. H. Jim Frans, president; Gordon Wrubel, 1st vice president; Al Polder, 2nd vice president; Florence Schook, secretary; and Helen Bernauer, treasurer.

New members of the group's board of governors are Mary Gail Beneteau, George Beach, Dorothy Bigham, Max Brail, Neil Musser, Raymond Olson, Hascall Peirce, William Slate and Bob Williams. Past governors retaining their seats are Arthur Goupel, Ralph Hinkle and Joe Overstreet.

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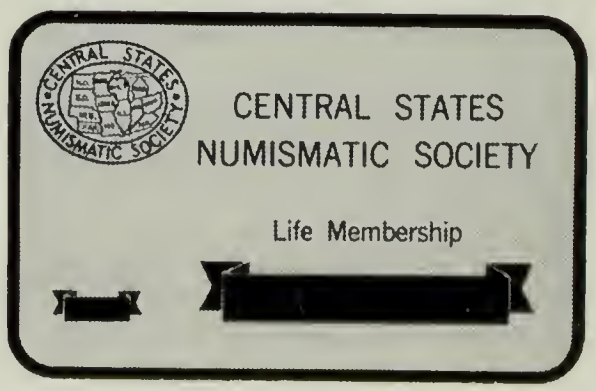

Details and application form may be requested from:

CSNS Secretary-Treasurer
609 So. 9th
Adel, Iowa 50003

East Chicago Club Returns '76 Slate

The Calumet Numismatic Club of East Chicago, Ind., has announced that all 1976 officers have been re-elected to serve the 1977 term.

Continuing in their elected offices will be Anne Pridala, president; Paul Urcan, first vice president; Earl Heimbaugh, second vice president; Joe Pollock, treasurer; George Hawk, secretary; and Ann Gronek, Edith Janes, and Cliff Lindall, directors.

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Club in Ohio Lists Officers

The Beaver Coin Club of Columbiana, Ohio, has announced its new slate of officers for 1977.

Henry Beck will serve as president of the group, aided by first vice president Glenn Cline, and second vice president, Lowell Chapman.

Robert Boyd was elected treasurer, Grace Morrison will be secretary, and Richard Dean and Gregory Langor will share the sergeant-at-arms post.

★ ★ ★

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Convention —

(From page 1)

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Over 300 rooms have been reserved for show-going guests at the Red Carpet Inn. Room reservation cards will be included with your issue of The Centinel. All reservations should indicate "Central States Convention" attendance.

Your friends in Milwaukee are out to top their records set at the 1972 show, so '77 promises to be the greatest CSNS convention of all. You won't want to miss it!

Address all correspondence to: Central States Convention, P.O. Box 11652, Milwaukee, Wis. 53211.

Lessons —

(From page 18)

Another sad situation came to our shop just two days before this is being written. A young couple showed us a three-cent silver coin which had been sold to them as Gem BU at a recent coin show. The coin was whizzed and then retoned! When I informed the couple of this fact, they did not even know what a whizzed coin was, and here they were investing substantial amounts of money.

The old advice of knowing your dealer is proper indeed, but I also advise you to know your coins. A few simple tools, some reference books, and a little window shopping could save you from joining the ranks of those who have invested their money for articles not up to their supposed level of preservation. Put that glass in your pocket and haul it out whenever you contemplate the purchase of a numismatic article.

ABCs —

(From page 23)

Among the most famous rarities in the Eliasberg exhibit are the 1804 "Stickney" silver dollar, the only coin of this issue which can be traced to the U.S. Mint, and said to be the most famous pedigreed coin in Amrica; the 1870-S $3 gold piece, one of two such specimens struck at the San Francisco Mint, the other of which was placed in the cornerstone of the Mint building; and the 1873-CC dime, without arrows, the only known specimen of this coin struck at the Carson City Mint.

Also included in the display is one of the finest groups of South American coinage known, plus fascinating examples of the more curious forms of world money such as the Mexican cocoa bean money, large copper plates of Sweden, brick tea money of Mongolia, bullet money of Siam, and wampum of the American Indian.

Eliasberg, an industrial banker and insurance executive, died at his Baltimore home in February of 1976. His interest in collecting began in his youth, when relatives returning from trips abroad presented him with left over coins and currency.

He later began his collection of every date and Mint U.S. coin issued for circulation, which he completed in 1950 with the acquisition of the 1873-CC dime without arrows. Following this find, he had only to add current date and Mint issues to maintain his claim to the "foremost collection of United States coins ever assembled."

The collection was the first private coin collection ever displayed at the Smithsonian Institution, in 1960, and was viewed by 1.5 million people. More than three million are expected to see the exhibit while at the Philadelphia Mint.

The Philadelphia Mint is located on Independence Mall at Fifth and Arch Streets, Philadelphia, Pa. Visitors are welcome Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., to view the minting processes and special exhibits.)

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